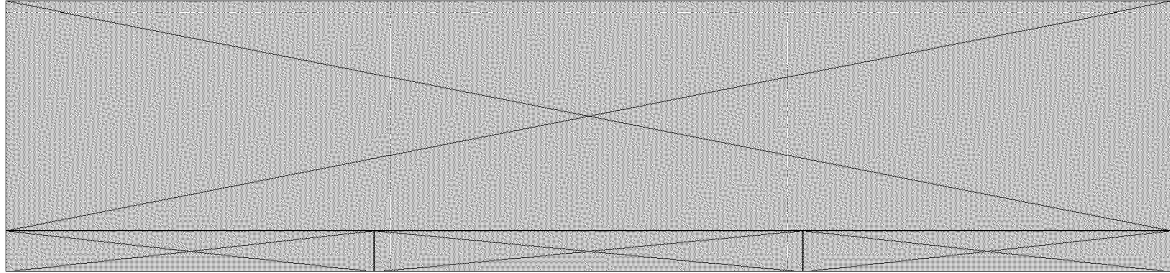


To: Dollhopf, Ralph[Dollhopf.Ralph@epa.gov]
From: Lyman Welch, Alliance for the Great Lakes
Sent: Wed 3/26/2014 9:31:10 PM
Subject: Oil Spill in Lake Michigan

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Lake Michigan Oil Spill Update

Dear Ralph,

This week's Lake Michigan oil spill is a stark reminder that oil spills can and do happen in the Great Lakes. Coming on the heels of a pipeline leak in a southwest Ohio nature preserve — and occurring on the 25th anniversary of the historic Exxon Valdez oil spill off the Alaskan coast — **this event underscores our concerns about plans to ship heavy tar sands oil across the Great Lakes.**

Oil Spill Update

Today, it appears that the oil spill from BP's Whiting, Ind. refinery has been contained. The EPA reports that BP has plugged the leak that caused the spill, and work to remove the oil from the lake is under way. At the moment, there are no reports of impacts to wildlife or human health. The U.S. Coast Guard and EPA are overseeing BP's cleanup plan and operations. Local and federal leaders are calling for a full accounting from BP.

By all appearances, we were lucky this time around. The spill was relatively small, discovered quickly and occurred near the shoreline — all factors that made it easier to address than a deep-water spill occurring far from the coast.

The Kalamazoo River — a Great Lakes tributary — has not been so lucky. The river is still suffering from a cataclysmic 2010 pipeline spill of tar sands crude. Four years and \$1 billion-plus worth of cleanup later, more than 20 percent of the oil spill remains at the bottom of the river.

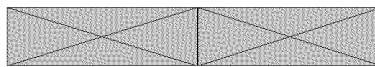
Tar Sands Oil Shipping

Plans are in the works to dramatically increase the flow of tar sands crude to the Midwest, and a tar sands shipping route has already been mapped across the waters of the Great Lakes. **Join our webinar “Tar Sands Crude Shipping on the Great Lakes?” to hear from experts on this issue. The webinar will be tomorrow (Thurs., March 27) at noon Central.**

We will keep you posted on further developments. Thank you for being part of the Alliance family.

Sincerely,

Lyman Welch
Water Quality Program Director



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